



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: DISMISSAL OF WEATHERWAX IS JUST THE FIRST STEP IN REFORMING THE LIQUOR COMMISSION

Tomorrow evening, the Honolulu Liquor Commission is poised to dismiss its chief administrator, Wally Weatherwax, after years of inept mismanagement of the agency. Last week Weatherwax was stripped of his duties at the liquor commission.

Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) stated, "I commend the commissioners for finally coming to grips with reality that the public has lost confidence in the management of the Honolulu Liquor Commission. Firing Wally Weatherwax, however, is only the first step in a long journey to rehabilitating the liquor commission. In addition to finding a new chief administrator, the liquor commission must also seek to replace the chief liquor inspector, John Carroll, and immediately begin implementing the reforms outlined in the auditor's report released earlier this year."

Djou added, "Enough is enough – let's reform the liquor commission and finally put this agency on the right path. I look forward to working with the commissioners and the Mayor to fixing this troubled agency."

Under Weatherwax's tenure as chief administrator of the Honolulu Liquor Commission, the agency:

- Has seen eight of its 12 inspectors go to prison on corruption charges;
- Was cited for "inadequate" and "ineffective" management by the City Auditor;
- Abused its overtime appropriation, such that today almost 25% of its budget is devoted to overtime pay;
- Settled a sexual harassment lawsuit for \$250,000;
- Settled a whistle-blower lawsuit for \$350,000;
- Was sanctioned for violation of the ethics code for improper acceptance of gifts;
- Still remains under investigation by the U.S. Justice Department; and
- As recently as last week, asked to arm liquor inspectors with deadly weapons.

Councilmember Djou is Chair of the Honolulu City Council's Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Honolulu Liquor Commission. More liquor licensees are in Councilmember Djou's district, which includes Waikiki, than any other council district.

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